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USIFARROT



I'LL BRING ONE OF MY MEN DOWN TO GUARD YOUR VALUABLE



















































PERDIE FOX was one of those bad youngsters who think they're too smart to learn anything. He thought only of himself and never of anyone else.

When he went to a birthday party, it was always Ferdie who grabbed the biggest piece of cake. And he always wanted second portions, whether there was enough to go around or not. When he wanted to listen to a wild west radio program on the radio, it didn't matter to him that every-body else around wanted to hear music; Ferdie always turned on the program he wanted! If he was playing a game and saw that he couldn't win, he simply decided he didn't want to play any more. That's the kind of youngster he was!

But one day he went too far!

As he was walking through the woods after school one afternoon, Ferdie saw a cute little squirrel running up the trunk of a tree. He picked up a big stone and shouted, "Yippee—I'm a wild game hunter!" Then he threw it with all his might at the little animal.

The poor squirrel gave a squeak of pain as the stone struck him on the back. Then he raced up into the safety of the tree.

All of a sudden there seemed to be a flash of lightning! And there, beside the tree, stood a strange little elf, with a long gray beard. He spoke in a deep, frightening voice. "You must be punished for your cruelty, Ferdie Fox! From this moment on, you will suffer a terrible stomach ache every time you see a squirrel!" Then the elf disappeared.

Ferdie laughed scornfully. He didn't believe in such things! At that moment a tiny squirrel passed by—and the awfulest ache cut deep into Ferdie's stomach! With a terror-stricken cry, he raced home. The elf's curse had come true!

From that day on, the same bad pain punished Ferdie every time he saw a squirrel, and he grew more and more bitter each time!

Then, one morning, he came upon a little gray squirrel lying on the grass, unable to move, Its leg was broken! As usual, a terrible stomach-ache attacked Ferdie, and he raised his foot angrily to kick the helpless creature.

But something happened! The squirrel looked so pitiful and unhappy that Ferdie just couldn't do it! Instead he bent down and stroked its soft fur pityingly. After that, he ran and fetched old Doc Owl, who knew all about broken bones.

As he watched the doctor working on the poor squirrel's leg, Ferdie saw another sudden flash of lightning! Again the little elf appeared! Said he: "You have committed an act of kindness! You have learned your lesson! The curse is lifted!"

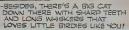
Ferdie realized then that it pays to be kind. He never had another stomach-ache!

























































































































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If anybody had called Bango Bear wise, they'd have gotten the laugh of the century He was the problem of Professor Muskrat's school. He couldn't remember dates, no matter how hard he tyted. And he god his arithmetic middled up, so he was always at the loot of his class. But if you think he was stupid, the laugh's on YOU! Wait till you hear what happened!

It was in the middle of a hot, dry spell when Alderman Owl, resting comfortably in his easy chair, scented the odor of burning leaves and branches. In the distance he saw a column of smoke itning over the dense woods which surrounded Animaliuwii, and the crackle of blazing boughs carrto him on the breeze. "FOREST FIRE!" he shrieked, leaping to his feet.

"CLANGI CLANGI" went the bell in the old tower In a second, the streets were filled with resurrying little beasts. Paint was everywhere—for the fire was headed this way, and conting fast! All looked to Alderman Owl for courset. "We've got to abandon town!" he announced gravely, "and it looks bed! The whole country's full of tress—and the flames move quicker than we can! It's lucky you've got a smart Alderman like me, because Fve figured the only way out! Lake Korothykoo's nearby, and it's big enough to hold all of us until the fire blows over—SO LETTS GO!"

To Baugo Bear, listening intently, suddenly there came an awful thought! Maybe he didn't know things like dates and arithmetic—but there were lots of things he DID know, and one of them was that Lake Koutchykoo spelled sure death for every animal that sought refuge there! In a trice, he

leaped to Alderman Owl's side and tried to make humef heard over the hubbuh. "N-no!" he squesied. "N NOT LAKE KOOTCHYKOO—ITS DAN. GEROUS! There's only one safe place—PEEP. WHISTLE PONI!" But nobody listened. and Alderman Owl sneered. "A little place like that when we can have a big, safe lake? Besides when we can have a big, safe lake? Besides when we can how the safe when the can be supported to expension, but it was no use. When we showed rudely saide, and away went all the animals, heading for Lake Kootchykoo!

Bango knew what he knew-and that was that he had to stop them! He was the fastest runner in town, and he sure proved it this time! Like the wind he headed for the suspension bridge they'd have to cross to reach the lake-and got there first! When the rest came up with him they stood aghast, He'd untied the ropes which moored the near end of the bridge and it had collapsed, barring their path to the lake! What a roar went up! Poor Bango was called every name under the sun. He was a murderer, a rogue and even stupider than his school record indicated! Finally he made himself heard over the clamor "I-I don't care what you think of ME!" he cried, "but don't forget that the fire's moving up on us! We've got to head back toward it and try to reach Peepwhistle Pond before it does-OR WE'RE ALL COOKED! It's the only place left for us-SO GET MOVING!"

There was no choice—they had to do as Bango said! Back they went, heading toward the roaring fire that just a moment ago they'd been running from. And what a trip that was! With every moment the tour of the flames grew louder and louder.

and the air became hotter and hotter! The smoke grew thicker—ashes, glowing embers and firebrands fell about them! "It's no use!" gasped.Flippy Fox. "We'll never make it!" "The fire will get to the pond before we do!" groand Wilberforce Woodchuck. "We'll run square into the flames!" But Alderman Owl's laments were louder than any of the others. "We would all have been safe if it wasn't for that stupid Bango Bear!" he screamed. "And now—OH-HHHH!"

There was nothing poor Bango could say, so he hung his head and pushed on, doing his best to help crippled old Grandma Goat, half-carrying her as the smoke and burning ashes swirled about them It was a race between the fire and all the little animals-and our friends just made it! With Bango leading the way, they splashed into the muddy waters of little Peepwhistle Pond just in time, ducking their heads beneath the surface as the great forest fire swept up to and ground them. What a time that was! The very waters themselves seemed to grow hot and boil! The animals held their breath as long as they could-but when they had to come up for air it was like breathing firecrackers! Down would go their heads again! It was an awful experience, and they didn't know how they lived through it, but finally Bango emerged cautiously, looked about him and happily called, "ALL CLEAR!" The searing flames had passed, leaving them safe!

But Bango's joy was short-lived aic he falt Alderman Owl's accessing eye on him. "What if we ARE alive?" barked the pompous old Alderman. We wouldn't have had to run all this risk and go through such hardship if it ween't for that dumb Bango Bear! We could have taken our time and gene to Lake Kootchykoo without half the danger HE exposed us to!" And all the other animals agreed! They gathered around bm threatnimals agreed! They gathered around bm threateningly, condemning his stupidity, Tuff, Wolf and BIIJ Boheat were all for taking it out of his hide, and things looked pretty had for Bango until he ammonded all his resolution and spoke. 'If tried to tell you what was wrong with Lake Kootchykoo, but you wouldn't linken!' he cried. 'So I HAD to until that suspension bridge and make you head back for the only sop tyou could find refuge in! And if you STILL don't want to tisen to me, come along to the lake—AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES WHY I HAD TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM IT!"

Curiosity made them heed his words, and away they trooped! Since the bridge was down, they had to take the long way around—they hadn't been able to do it before since the fire was in their way. But it was mostly burnt out now, and they had no difficulty in picking their path. Finally they came within sight of Lake Kootchykoo—and stood aghast! THE VERY WATER ITSELF WAS A MASS OF FLAMES! "G-GOLLY!" whispered Gregory Groundbog, "Cean you imagine if we'd tried for safety THERE? But how can water B BURN?"

"I would have told you if you'd let me!" answered Bango Bear simply. "Don't you remember that old factory at the head of the lake? It had been draining waste oil into the lake for years, and I knew that when the forest fire finally came up, it would turn the surface of the water into a fiery furnance, and we wouldn't have had a chance! I had to use drastic measures—BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!"

All of the residents of Animaltown clubbed to gether and raised a statue in the public squareafter they'd rebuilt it. Sure enough, it was of Bango Bear—and beneath it appeared these words; "Maybe He DIDN'T Know Much About History or Arithmetic—BUT WHAT HE DID KNOW SAYED OUR LIVES!"



















































































SITUATION . . . DEFEND YOURSELF IN

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